

Two Little Vagabonds or: The Pugilistic Parson

UK : 1903 : dir. Alf Collins : Gaumont
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[William Carrington](#)
 Alf Collins

Silent : 84 sec

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985
 listing:

“Drama. Gypsy whips boy for breaking jug
 and is whipped by curate.”

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Hollywood in the Twenties", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The director steps before the camera to play the parson. The gypsy's name is not recorded. The beating for a beating motif had been worked before, in "**A LOVER'S TROUBLES**" (1903 – courting man spans boy with peashooter, only to be thrashed by boy's irate mother) and was used again for "**DOTHEBOYS HALL**", a cameo from "Nicholas Nickleby", also featuring William Carrington, presumably as Smike. He's one of the earliest named child performers in world cinema, along with the Williamson brothers (Alan, Colin, Tom and Stuart). In 1904 Carrington appeared in "**THE APPLE WOMAN**", but his age is not known. It's worth noting that in most titles of this date, the spanking of unruly boys was played strictly for comedy, but here, as in "**DOTHEBOYS HALL**", the subtext was clearly cruelty, and gypsies were invariably portrayed in a bad light.

See also "**THE GIPSY FORTUNE TELLER**" (1905) and subject index under [CORPORAL PUNISHMENT](#), [GYPSIES](#) and [SILENT CINEMA](#).